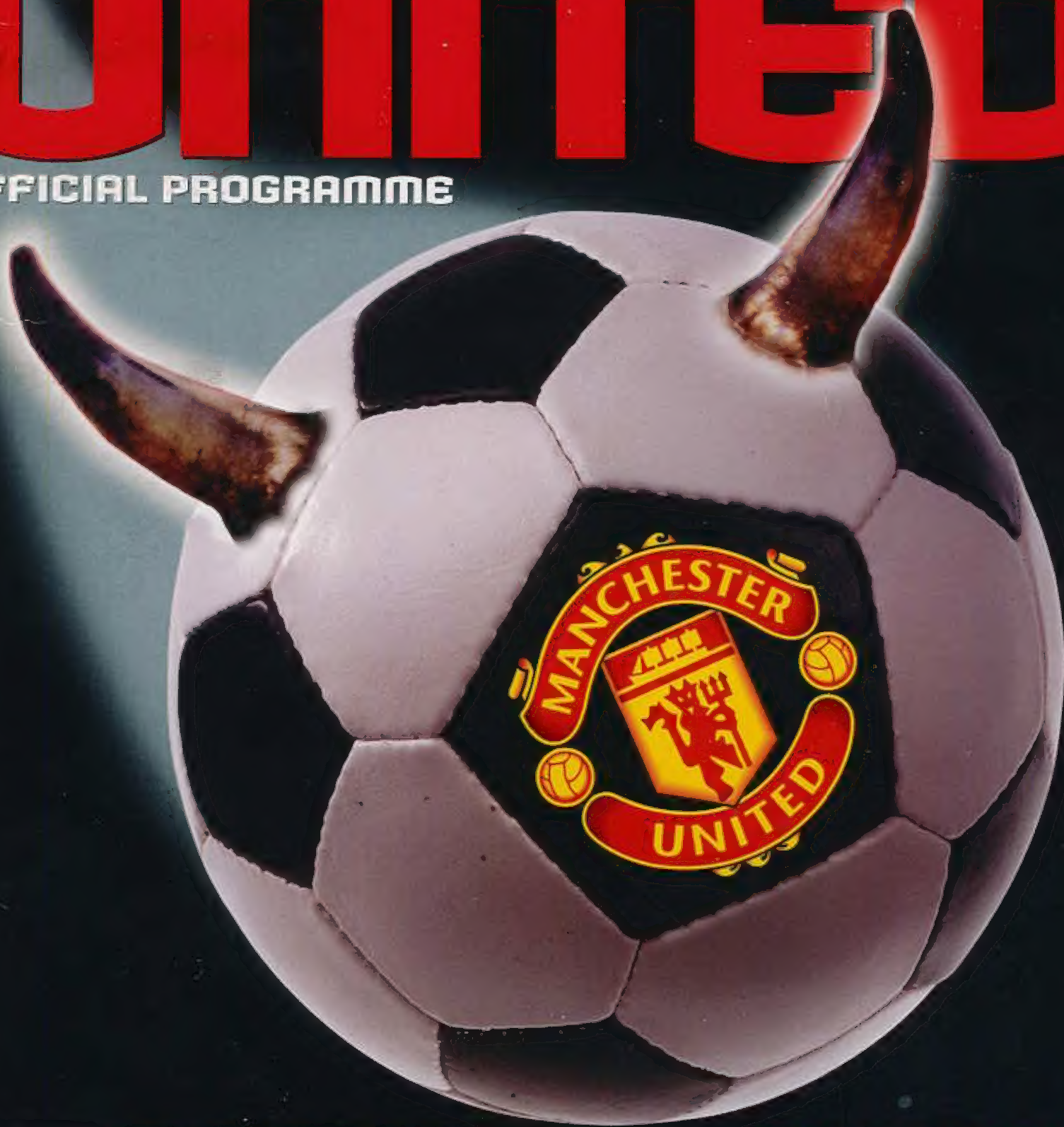


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rene rivkin

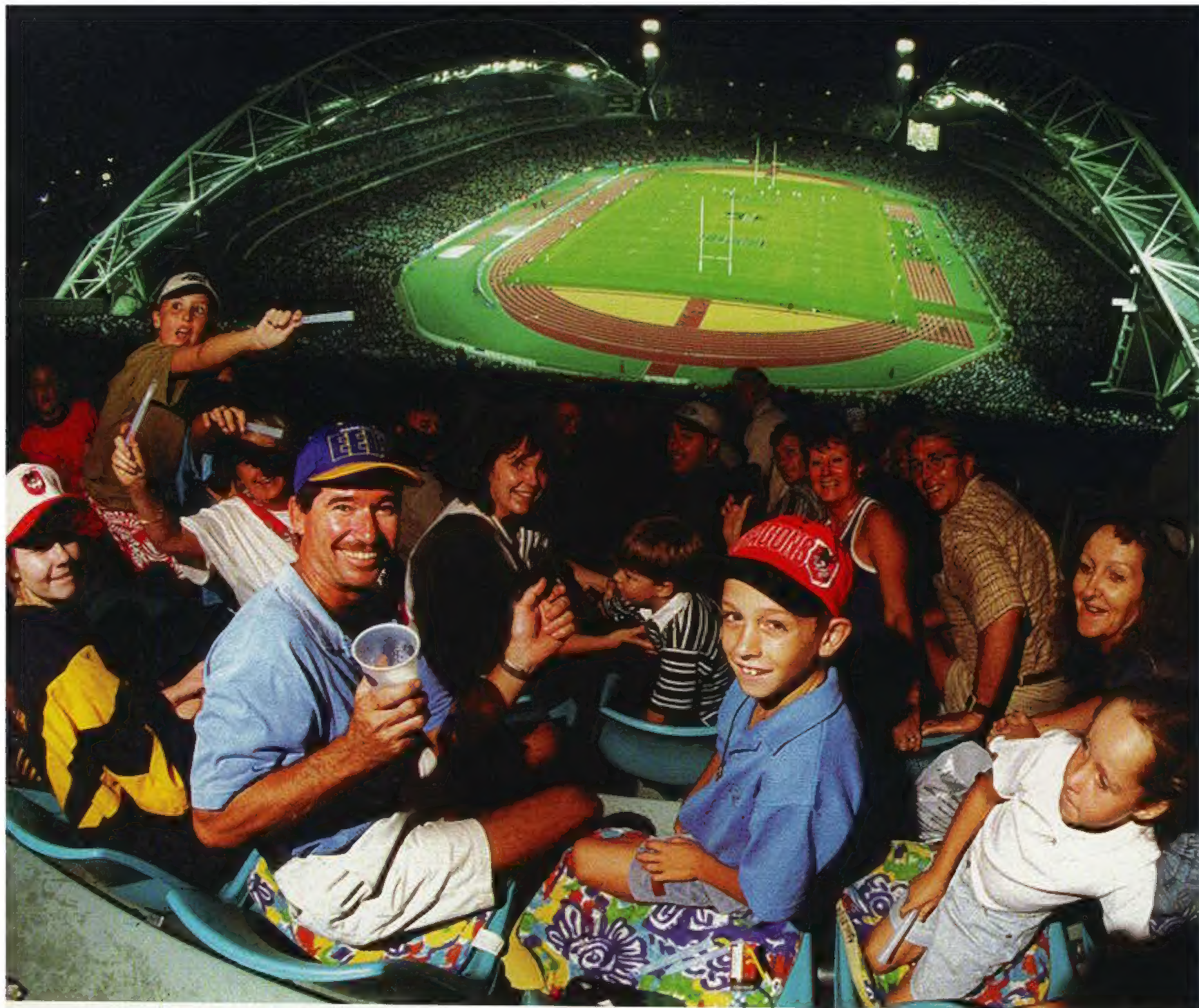
All of the Manchester United fans in Australia lucky enough to witness their heroes, either in Sydney or Melbourne, have one person to thank. Rene Rivkin is the man behind United's trip Down Under – and he's just as much of a fan as you are.

"It seems like only yesterday I announced that Manchester United would play two games against the Socceroos in Australia in July. Now, that dream has taken its own reality, and three months after that announcement, not only are they here, but they arrive after some of the most exciting and memorable matches seen... and, of course, as the mighty 'Treble-winners'. Now arriving as the 'Greatest Team on the Planet', over the last three months they have teased, entertained and delivered some classic and exciting football. Who will ever forget Ryan Giggs' winner over Arsenal in the FA Cup semi or Teddy Sheringham's amazing performances, and goals, in the two Cup Finals. But Manchester United has always conjured up visions of class, skill... and stars. In my youth, Bobby Charlton, Georgie Best and Dennis Law were players that made the headlines back then – their deeds in the famous 'Red Shirt' etched in the minds of supporters around the globe. And the tradition looks like it is to continue for some time with the likes of Giggs, Beckham and Yorke all delivering that special, MU magic. The uniqueness of this event can only truly be realised as we sit and watch these players Down Under against our own Socceroos. As our disappointment from the last World Cup Qualifiers translates into the determination,



and hopefully success, for qualification to the 2002 World Cup, we now look to the skills of our own 'true-blue' stars like Zelic, Okon, Viduka, Kewell, and Bosnich to pave the way to Japan and Korea in 2002. What better start to our own dream of qualification than this Sharp Challenge Cup? I look forward to these two matches both as the basis for our future, but also purely as the spectacle such a quality, sporting event provides when players of this calibre are pitted against each other. Finally, I welcome the Chairman, Martin Edwards, and all of the Manchester United touring party to Australia and extend to them, on behalf of all Australians, the best wishes for their coming season.

Rene Rivkin



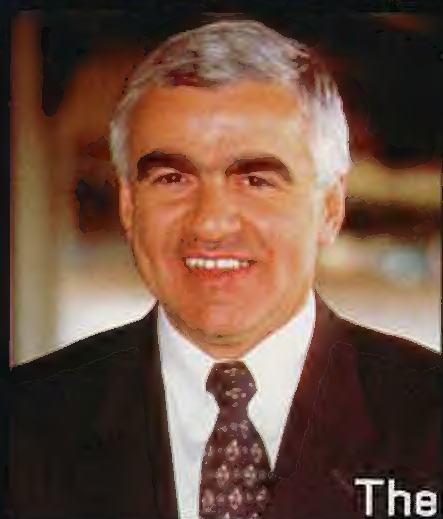
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basil scarsella



The Chairman of Soccer Australia, Basil Scarsella, welcomes Manchester United and yourselves to the Sharp Challenge Cup.

"It is with great pleasure that I on behalf of the Board of Soccer Australia and the Australian public, welcome one of the world's greatest football clubs, Manchester United to Australia. Through the Sharp Challenge Cup, to be staged over two games between the Socceroos and Manchester United, we are privileged to witness Manchester United's first competitive games after their great results in 1999. It is a positive time for Soccer Australia. The Socceroos continue to play against world class opposition, the Olyroos are successfully continuing their build-up to the 2000 Olympic Games and the Joeys are on the verge of qualifying for the Under-17 World Championships. On behalf of Soccer Australia, I would like to thank the Rivkin Group for staging the Sharp Challenge Cup, and the many fans who continue to support our National Teams."

Basil Scarsella
Chairman - Soccer Australia



The official opening of Stadium Australia - the FIFA All Stars match.



Hewell and Bosnich, two of the big Socceroos stars look to the future.



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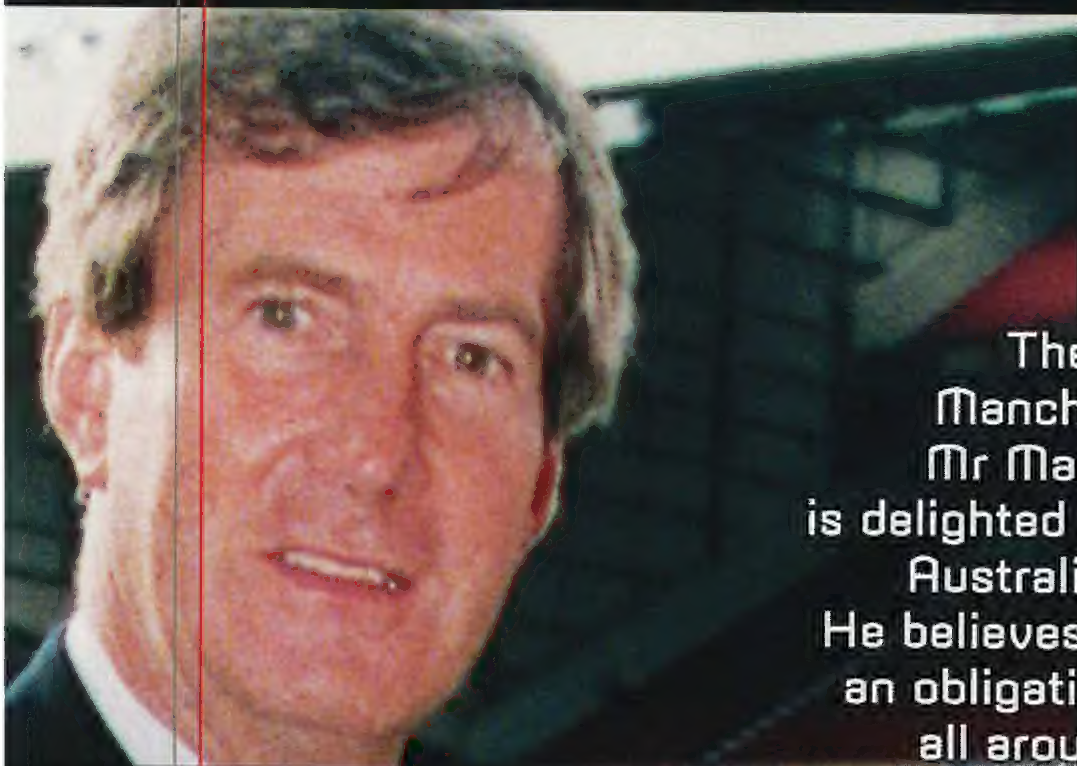
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martin edwards



The Chairman of Manchester United, Mr Martin Edwards, is delighted to be visiting Australia once again. He believes the club has an obligation to its fans all around the world.

"It is with the greatest pleasure that Manchester United Football Club is once again visiting Australia. We have been to your wonderful country before and have always received the type of warmth and hospitable welcome, which would be hard to beat.

Manchester United is proud and happy to have supporters in virtually every country around the globe. But, at the same time, we are continually amazed by the strength of feeling the club generates amongst fans who are so distant from Old Trafford.

Wherever we go it is the same story as throngs of excited and enthusiastic followers, of all ages, turn out to greet us and attend our matches. Australia has always been one of the places where we feel that we are amongst the greatest of friends.

It is a huge undertaking to travel such vast distances with a new season just a few short weeks away, but we feel we have an obligation to visit as many of the centres of our overseas support as is possible.

We are only too well aware of the fact that the club is as popular in Melbourne and Sydney as it is in Manchester and Salford, but it isn't always easy to

accommodate visits such as this alongside our extensive competitive engagements.

However, I am personally delighted that we can once again renew old acquaintances and hopefully forge new and lasting friendships.

We, of course, arrive in Australia with memories of last season's remarkable achievements fresh in everyone's minds. Even by our own magnificent standards of the past decade last season was totally outstanding and memorable.

I have to admit that I had wondered whether it was possible for any English club to win all three major trophies in one season. But I am delighted that any lingering doubts I may have had were well and truly dispelled during the last ten incredible days of the season.

Credit of course is due to Alex Ferguson, (sorry Sir Alex!), his staff and players for their magnificent achievements. I know that you will all join with me in wishing them the very best of luck for the new campaign as they attempt to bring further honours to the club."

C. Martin Edwards
Chairman, Manchester United FC



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sir alex ferguson



Having first visited Australia over 30 years ago, Sir Alex Ferguson has a fondness for the people Down Under. Here he explains why this trip will be even more special than most.

"It has been my good fortune to visit Australia on many occasions in the past and it is always a delight to return. My first trip to Australia was back in 1967 when I was included in the Scottish party for a world tour which took in Israel, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Canada. We faced Australia in three separate matches in Sydney, Adelaide and Melbourne and I'm happy to recall that we won the lot, 1-0, 2-1 and 2-0 respectively. I scored the only goal in Sydney and both in the Melbourne meeting. It isn't hard to see why I have such pleasant memories of Australia!

Coincidentally, whilst Scotland were touring here in 1967 Manchester United were also doing the rounds as League champions and then proceeded to win the European Cup the following season. We of course arrive here in the happy position of having carved for ourselves a very special place in the history of English football. I had gone on record to say that I considered that it was almost impossible for an English club to complete the treble. We have to contend with a much longer and stamina-sapping domestic season to that which many of our European opponents have to face and I was of the opinion that it would always be too much of a test, even for Manchester United!

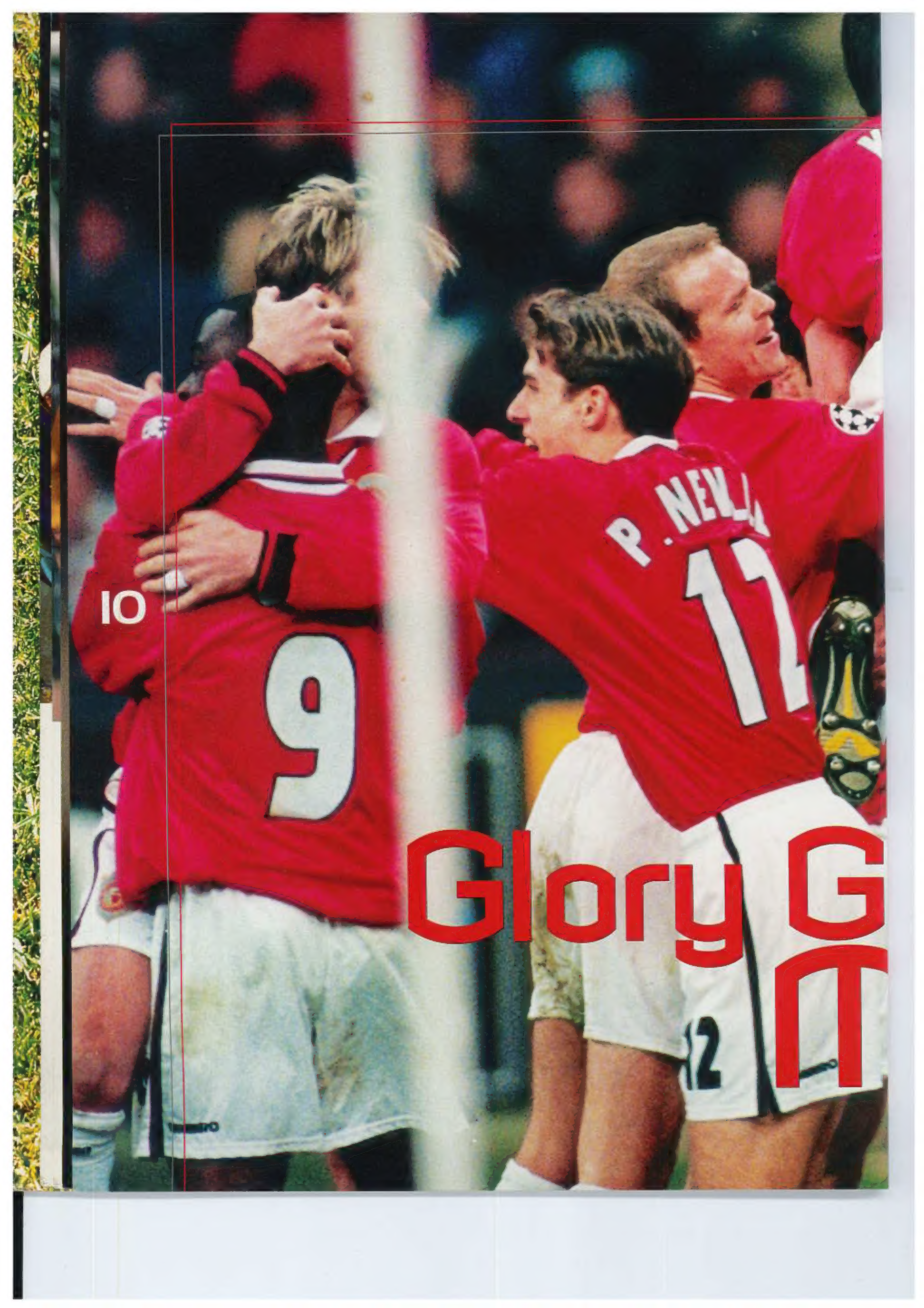
I should have known better, because my players have proved me wrong in the past and they all possess an inspiring self belief. They certainly don't know when to throw in the towel as they demonstrated on several occasions last season. We were seconds from being eliminated from the FA Cup at home to Liverpool when two late goals saved us. And I don't need to remind anyone about the last 90 seconds of the Champions League final in Barcelona. That brief moment in time against Bayern Munich will have a place in football history for eternity. Last season was one that I will never forget and I'm sure that United's millions of supporters around the world will relive those final ten days of the season for years to come. It was certainly a spectacular end to the campaign and one of which we are justifiably proud. But that was last season and now we must turn our attentions to months ahead and the fresh challenges which await us. I'm ready, the players and staff are geared up and our supporters can't wait. We will enjoy our brief stay in Australia – it would be hard not to – and hope it will not be long before we are here again".


Sir Alex Ferguson
Manager, Manchester United FC



10

Glory Glory





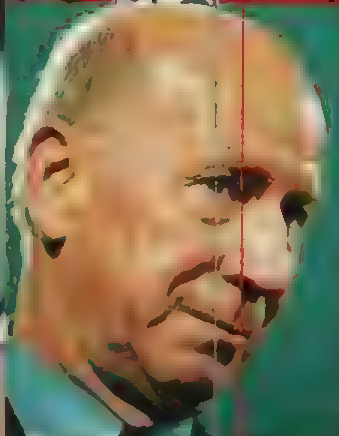
Manchester United is England's most celebrated soccer club. Gil Gillespie traces 100 years in the life of a footballing superpower.

'Manchester' and 'United' are arguably the two most famous words in the English language. It doesn't matter where you are in the world, everyone knows the devils in the red shirts. "Oh, you English?" they ask before raising their thumb in the air and saying something like "Manchester United, Bobby Charlton, good, yeah". If Brazil are the World's best-supported national team then Manchester United is probably its favourite club side. But how did a football team who are tucked away among the terraced backstreets of England's wettest city become so famous? The road, as they say, is long and winding. Queen Victoria was still on the throne when Man United were born as Newton Heath in 1878. They were an ordinary team made up of railway workers and



only
an United

glory glory man united



from top: Old Trafford, the Theatre of Dreams; in 1998 United remembered their loss 40 years earlier; United celebrate with another trophy, above; Bobby Charlton is perhaps England's most famous footballer ever. He is certainly United's greatest; Below, the Busby Babes in action.



continued from previous page

played on a pitch that was worse than most fields. In those days no-one would even bother to open their curtains when Manchester played. But in 1906 they swiped the tempestuous Welsh wizard Billy Meredith away from local rivals Man City and became the footballing phenomenon that lives and breathes today. Meredith was the George Best of his era, a rebel playboy with the devil in his soul and with genius in his feet. He led the club to their first league championship in 1908.

What Meredith did on the pitch, Matt Busby would do from the boardroom 20 years later. On Saturday 24th November 1951 the Manchester Evening News ran a headline that referred to youngsters Jackie Blanchflower and Roger Byrne as 'United's Babes'. When Busby told a 16-year-old Duncan Edwards to "go get your boots" two years later his dream team was complete. They had an average age of just 22. In 1952 they won the English league championship. Easily. But it was their displays in Europe that won this cherubic team fans from all over the world. Real Madrid may have been the best in Europe but the Busby Babes were the most adored. After a couple of seasons playing in the continent's most prestigious competition tragedy struck. Flight Zulu Uniform 609 crashed as it took off from Munich airport in 1958 killing 21 passengers. Eight United players were among the dead. Matt Busby himself clung onto life for a week. He awoke to find what may have become the greatest team in football history had left him.

And this is where the Man United story becomes the stuff of legend. Not only did Busby rebuild the team, by the early 1960s he had built an arguably better one. Bobby Charlton, Paddy Crerand and Dennis Law were the key components but Busby's masterstroke arrived later. In 1963 he signed a skinny Irish 17-year-old who went by the name of George Best. Best by name, best by nature. The beatific, unpredictable fifth Beatle, as he later became known mesmerised Europe with his lazily hypnotic ball skills. His performance in the astonishing 5-1 victory over Benfica in the European Cup quarter-final of 1966 was like nothing anyone had ever seen before; it was pure fantasy football. But Busby's brave new team still had to wait another two years before lifting the elusive trophy. In the 1968 Wembley final United destroyed Benfica 4-1. A decade after the darkest night in the club's history, Busby had finally reached his Holy Grail. A year later he retired.

For years afterwards Man United lived in the long shadow of Busby's genius, even dropping down to the second division in 1974. These were the wilderness years. Successive managers came and went but none of them could stop the slide. Even with players of the calibre of Steve Coppell, Ray Wilkins and Bryan Robson, the club won nothing, other than the FA Cup, for 10 years. Then in 1986 Club Chairman Martin Edwards persuaded the then Aberdeen boss Alex Ferguson to become the seventh Man United manager since Matt Busby retired. At first the appointment looked like a mistake. Although he made some big name signings the club continued to languish in mediocrity. But Edwards showed great patience and four years later Ferguson won the FA Cup, his first trophy for the club. Although no one knew it at the time, this was the start of a boom period even greater than the one that Busby had orchestrated. In the early 90s Man United went into orbit and have not touched down since. When they lifted the European Champions League last season they became the first English team to complete the treble.



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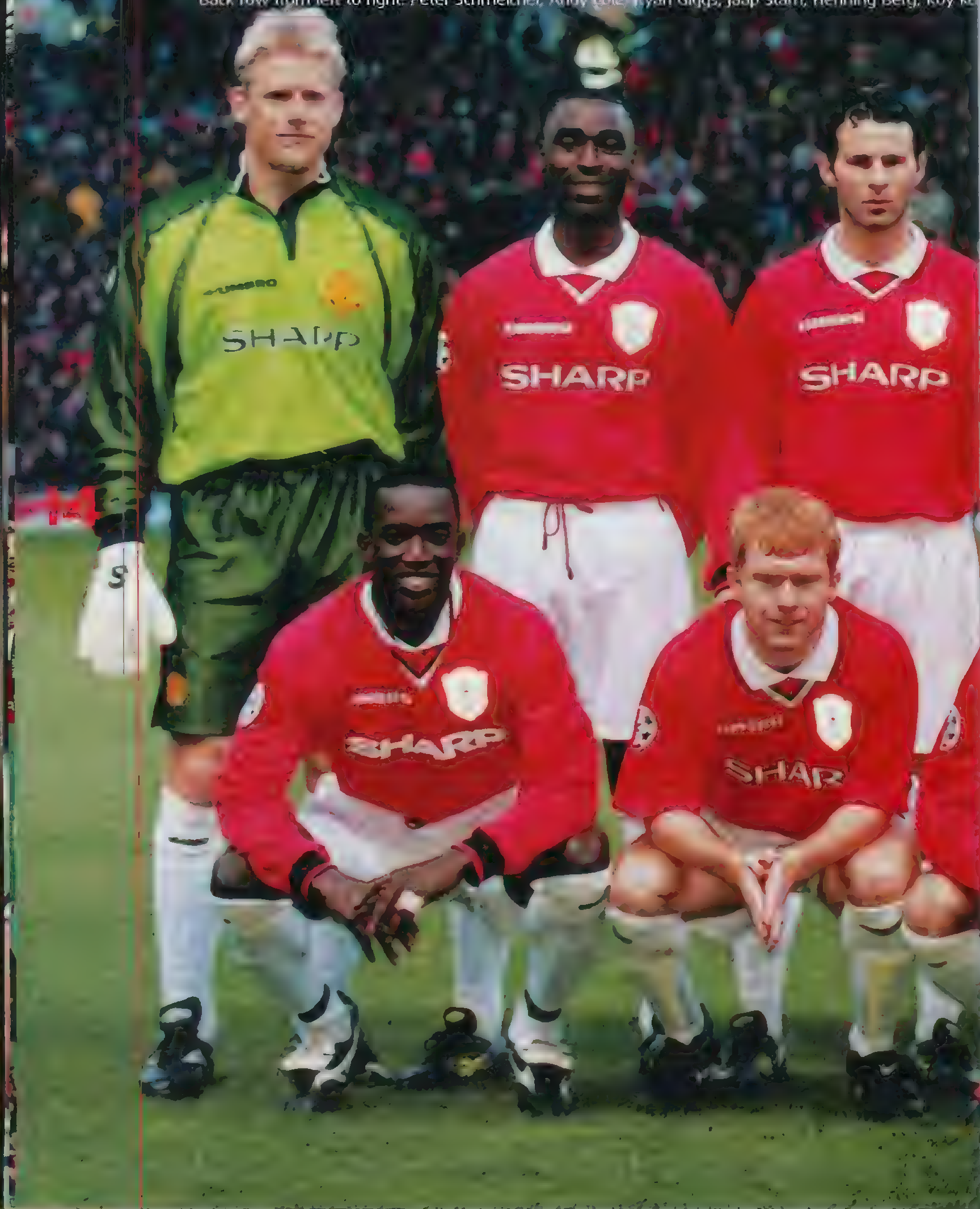
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manchester united

The Manchester United team line-up before another of their victorious nights in Europe on the way to the Cup Winners' Cup. Back row from left to right: Peter Schmeichel, Andy Cole, Ryan Giggs, Jaap Stam, Henning Berg, Roy Keane.



winning the unprecedented treble. On this occasion Henning Berg replacing an injured Ronny Johnsen.
(Captain). Front row from left to right: Dwight Yorke, Paul Scholes, David Beckham, Gary Neville, Denis Irwin





FOR EVERY TOM, DICK AND...



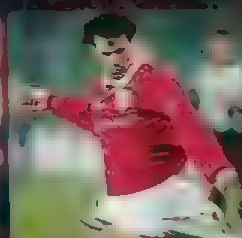
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the best man united te

Beckham, McGrath, Ince, Whiteside, Coppel – and that's just the sub's bench. How can you select the best eleven Manchester United players of all time? Gary Tipp has the difficult job.

SCHMEICHEL
1

18



Ryan Giggs

Not only is there one George Best in this invincible Manchester United line-up, but in fact two. For it is as the 'next George Best' that Ryan Giggs grew up. Now, however with over 350 games under his belt, Ryan is very much his own player. Speed with the ball, a great crosser, he also chips in with vital goals. Even his heading has improved with age. When in full flight there is not a more exciting player in the game and his performances in Europe have been outstanding over the past few seasons. All this and he's still only 25 years old!

Played: 1991-
Games: 354
Goals: 75



Eric Cantona

Of all the players in this eleven, Eric Cantona has made the least number of appearances. Despite that he made one of the biggest impacts on the game of any Manchester United player in history. Enigmatic off the pitch, occasionally fiery on it, he is one of the most skillful players ever to grace the English leagues. In the run in to United's double-winning season of 1996 he scored all of the vital goals which secured them precious points. It showed that he had the big match temperament to match his supreme subtlety and skill.

Played: 1992-1997
Games: 185
Goals: 81



Dennis Law

The slight blonde-haired Scot was, along with Jimmy Greaves, the most natural goalscorer of his generation. His record of 236 goals in 409 appearances is a magnificent achievement. Not always one to strike them from outside the box it wouldn't be surprising if over 200 of those goals came from inside the six yard box. After a long career with Manchester United where he was signed from Torino in Italy, Law later went on to win a Championship with arch rivals Man City. He actually scored the goal which relegated United in 1974.

Played: 1962-1973
Games: 409
Goals: 236



George Best

Arguably the greatest player of all time Best was the most naturally gifted player ever to come out of the British Isles. He had pace and strength for someone so slight, and with the ball at his feet he could mesmerise defenses. He scored goals that nobody else could score and beat players with deceptive ease. His career did not perhaps have the length it deserved as his off-field activities eventually caught up with him. Nevertheless he played almost 500 games for United and scored almost 200 goals. Imagine an attack with him, Cantona and Giggs.

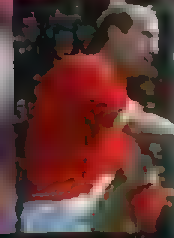
Played: 1963-1974
Games: 474
Goals: 180



Bryan Robson

At a time when Manchester United were not at their peak in the 80s, one player tried to hoist them to the lofty position their tradition warranted. It was, right at the end of his United career that they finally achieved that elusive title. One of the bravest players of the modern era Robson typified the midfielder of the 80s. He could tackle hard, he could run for the full 90 minutes, he was a natural leader and he scored a goal every four games. A great captain for England he was one of the bravest players that his nation has ever produced.

Played: 1981-1994
Games: 486
Goals: 98



Bobby Charlton

The most famous English footballer of all time. The most appearances and has ever made Manchester United and the most goals anyone has scored. One of the 1966 World Cup winners and Manchester United's greatest ambassador. Charly as a player was a strong running midfielder who often moved up into the box and scored ferocious goals from outside the box. Since giving up playing Charly has continued to work with dignity for United and perhaps sums up the club spirit more than any other person.

Played: 1956-1970
Games: 766
Goals: 253

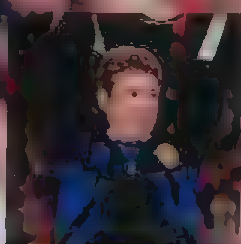
in over



Duncan Edwards

● They say he could have been the greatest player of all time. A man mountain who could shoot from range, tackle with force and run with pace. At only 21 he was the United captain.

Unfortunately he was one of the players killed in the 1958 Munich Air crash and never achieved that potential. In this imaginary United side, however, he would have been perfect as a sweeper behind Robson and Charlton in midfield. With him and Bruce at the back, Law, Best and Cantona would be free to create magic.



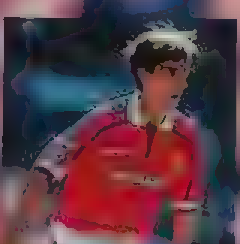
Steve Bruce

● In a team made up of captain's like this, it would take a strong character to lead them and they don't come tougher or more motivated than Bruce. How he didn't get a score of caps with England is a mystery, but his presence at United was never taken for granted. His ability to score vital goals (at a rate of one every eight games), together with the spirit he drove United on with was legendary. His partnership with Gary Pallister was the launch pad from which United started their assault on the 90s. He could be a future Utd manager.



Nobby Stiles

● Always remembered for his role with England rather than Manchester United, Nobby Stiles sneaks into the United all-time XI in the left-back berth just ahead of Dennis Irwin. He does so for his great enthusiasm and bravery. Not always the most stylish of players he could nevertheless pass the ball smoothly and read the game well. It is for his ruthless tackling, however, that he will be remembered. Along with Norman Hunter and Billy Bremner he was one of the most aggressive players of his time and never content unless he was a winner.



Gary Neville

● Perhaps a debatable choice for some, Gary Neville has nevertheless made the right back spot at United his own, and can switch to the centre of defence when needed. Still only in his early twenties and already a regular England international Neville can go on to break the all-time appearance record for United if he continues to play as he is now. In over 50 games for United last season he was outstanding at the back and also got forward to deliver telling crosses from the right. His only weakness is his scoring, with a rate similar to Schmeichel's!



Peter Schmeichel

● In his time with United Schmeichel has proved himself to be the best in the world. The Danish international must now surely rank with Banks, Shilton and Yashin as one of the all-time greats. He directs from the back like a second captain, can command his area when coming for crosses, stand up well, has great reflexes and can throw a ball to the halfway line with ease. He even managed to get on the scoresheet for United and was often seen in opposing teams' penalty areas at the end of a game. A great keeper.

Played: 1953-1958
Games: 177
Goals: 21

Played: 1987-1996
Games: 416
Goals: 50

Played: 1960-1971
Games: 397
Goals: 19

Played: 1992-
Games: 216
Goals: 2

Played: 1991-1998
Games: 399
Goals: 1

fields of dreams



20

quick stats

- Opened: June 1988
- Seats: 110,000
- Cost: \$690 million
- Time to build: 6 years

the melbourne cricket ground ►

Even with the opening of Stadium Australia, the 'G' is still arguably Australia's greatest sporting venue.

The Melbourne Cricket Ground is one of the world's greatest sporting arenas. Whether you're watching a spectacular Australian Rules game, an international cricket match under lights, or one of the many special sporting or entertainment events, the atmosphere of the MCG is unrivalled.

The massive stadium today holds over 90,000 spectators, and the record for attendance at a football match is 121,690 for the 1970 VFL Grand Final between Carlton and Collingwood.

When the crowd roars at the start of a game, you can't help but feel thrilled. There are more than 100 days of events including football, cricket and concerts annually, and attendance exceeds 3.5 million – incredibly, more than the population of Melbourne.

There have been countless days of triumph, tragedy and drama at the "G", including the magical 1956 Olympic Games, the famous Boxing Day Test between England and Australia in 1983, the tied VFL 1977 Grand Final between North Melbourne and Collingwood, and the World Cup soccer qualifier between Australia and Iran in 1997. Whatever the spectacle, a visit to the MCG can almost always guarantee an unmatched level of excitement and atmosphere.

the sydney olympic stadium

It seems right that Man Utd do battle with the Socceroos at Sydney's Olympic Stadium – the biggest club in the world at the largest Olympic Stadium on this planet.

On June 12th this year soccer, the world's most popular game, was showcased at Stadium Australia's official opening. In front of 88,101 spectators. A record crowd for a game of soccer in this country, the Socceroos defeated a team of FIFA World Stars 3-2.

The magnificent entertainment spectacular on the night – that included a memorable performance by world-renowned Aussie rock band INXS and a parade of Australian sporting legends – was beamed to millions of international television viewers. It made the six-year completion time for Stadium Australia worth waiting for and gave the world a glimpse of what to expect next year at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

During the Olympics, Stadium Australia will host the opening and closing ceremonies, the entire athletic track and field schedule, the closing stages of the marathon and, of course, the Gold Medal Soccer final. Post Olympics it will also leave a magnificent legacy. Stadium Australia will be the home to rugby league, rugby union, Australian rules, and soccer for years to come.

- Staged 1958 Olympics
- Holds: 90,000
- Record: 121,850

quick stats

21

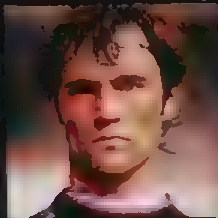


manchester united

Alex Ferguson will pick his starting eleven from this group.



Mark Bosnich
Goalkeeper
Has the unenviable task of replacing the formidable Peter Schmeichel. However, Bosnich is noted for his supreme confidence and is an athletic shot-shopper.



Raymond Van Der Gouw
Goalkeeper
Schmeichel's experienced deputy now seems likely to be keeping the bench warm while Aussie Mark Bosnich takes over the mantle.



Gary Neville
Defender
England player Gary Neville will look to not only snuff out attacking moves on United's right flank, but hope to link with the midfield and deliver some telling crosses.



Dennis Irwin
Defender
Approaching veteran status, Denis Irwin has made the left-back slot his own over the past decade. His defensive play is near flawless and his passing ability accurate.



Phil Neville
Defender
Younger brother of Gary, Phil is a gifted defender, who is comfortable filling either of the full-back slots. A full England international, his pace can get him out of trouble.



Jaap Stam
Defender
A man mountain of a centre-half, Jaap Stam is first and foremost a stopper. His physical strength and pace are often enough to discourage any striker, but he is also composed on the ball.



Ronny Johnsen
Defender
This talented Norwegian is United's utility man. While he is most comfortable being deployed alongside Stam at the heart of the Manchester defence, he can also move into midfield.



Wes Brown
Defender
Although already a full England international, Wes Brown is one for the future. Maturity beyond his tender years means he is firmly knocking on the door of a first-team place. Cool and calm.



David May
Defender
Strong in the air and courageous in the tackle, David May is not the first choice centre-half at Old Trafford these days. Yet when selected he is as committed as anyone else.



Henning Berg
Defender
A squad player of some repute and another Norwegian international, Henning Berg is United's Mr Consistency. An admirably unflappable defender he is a good reader of the game.



David Beckham
Midfielder
One of the team's young superstars, David Beckham has proved himself to be one of the very best passers of the football in the world game. His ability from free-kicks is breath-taking.



Roy Keane
Midfielder
With his tireless energy and fierce determination, Roy Keane is one of the game's most complete midfielders. Whether scrapping it out in defence or bursting into attack.



Paul Scholes
Midfielder
A rare mixture of determined ball-winner and creative play-maker, Paul Scholes is an important cog in the Manchester machine. He is also a deadly finisher in the box for United.



Nicky Butt
Midfielder
Another unsung hero, Manchester-born Nicky Butt provides cover in the centre of United's engine room of the highest quality. Hard-working, unselfish and a tireless runner for the team.



Ryan Giggs
Midfielder
There are few, if any, better left-wingers in football than Ryan Giggs. The mercurial Welsh wonder is a proven match-winner with his ability to glide past defenders. Scorching pace.



Jesper Blomqvist
Midfielder
An out-and-out left-winger, Jesper Blomqvist is used as direct cover for Giggs, and the young Swede shares many of his qualities. Skillful with the ball at his feet.



Dwight Yorke
Forward
Sir Alex Ferguson bought Yorke because he had always caused United problems when he played against them, and it is no wonder with his pace and skill.



Andy Cole
Forward
Another player with bags of pace to burn, Andy Cole has scored goals wherever he has played. His fast attacking link play with Yorke is often a treat to watch.



Teddy Sheringham
Forward
They say what Teddy Sheringham lacks in pace he more than makes up for in speed of thought. His role at the end of the season was vital to United's treble triumph.



Ole Gunnar Solskjaer
Forward
The Baby-faced Assassin knows the route to goal. The Norwegian came off the bench to score the winner in the Champions League.

As well as the twenty players above who were the core of United's treble winning squad, Alex Ferguson may also call on Michael Clagg, Jordi Cruyff, John Curtis, Nick Culkin, Jonathan Greening, Eric Pavlend and Denny Higginbotham.

s the soccerroos

Australia will be choosing from this squad of players.



Zeljko Kalac
Goalkeeper
Zeljko Kalac will more than fill the role as Mark Bosnich's understudy. His excellent reflexes and dominance in the air make him an intimidating sight for strikers.



John Filan
Goalkeeper
Along with Mark Schwarzer at Middlesbrough, Blackburn's John Filan is the latest in an ever-increasing queue for the number one jersey for Australia.



Alex Tobin
Defender
Reliable, selfless and committed, Alex Tobin will provide the Soccerroos with the valuable leadership and balance needed to challenge the best club side in the world.



Tony Vidmar
Defender
Tony Vidmar adds valuable experience to an exciting Australian team. He is a solid reliable defender who has the ability to join the attack whenever necessary.



Haydon Foxe
Defender
Haydon Foxe is another Olyroo with a magnificent soccer career ahead of him. A new generation defender who is uniquely comfortable on the ball.



Simon Colossimo
Defender
Current Olyroo, Simon Colossimo, has been heralded as the next big superstar of Australian soccer. He will not disappoint if he gets his chance against Manchester United.



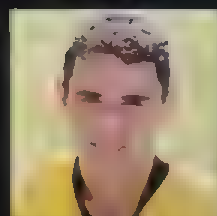
Stan Lazaridis
Defender
Has the ability to torment any defence in the world. Either at fullback or wide midfield, his direct running and pinpoint crosses provide a valuable avenue of attack for Australia.



Tony Popovic
Defender
Popovic is another of the growing number of world class central defenders produced by this country in the 90s. His commitment to shutting down opposition will be tested against United.



Ned Zelic
Midfielder
Possessing experience way beyond his 27 years and creative clever midfield play has confirmed Ned Zelic as one of the prime movers in the Soccerroo team. Fast and skillful player.



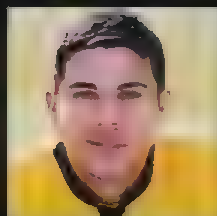
Kevin Muscat
Defender
Kevin Muscat is a street-wise defender whose uncompromising tracking and indiscriminate approach provides a healthy dose of steel to the Soccerroo defensive formation.



Paul Okon
Midfielder
Injury free, Paul Okon is one of world soccer's elite sweepers. He reads the game and marshals his defence immaculately often frustrating opposition strikers with his clean tackling.



Brett Emerton
Midfielder
Brett Emerton is another one of this country's impressive Olyroo 'Rat Pack'. Two-footed, he is at his best parading his undoubted skills in the Soccerroos' offensive third of the pitch.



Steve Corica
Midfielder
A busy, probing link-man, Steve Corica could become the surprise package of the series. Clever in possession, his sublime dribbling skills and awkward style may provide variation.



Craig Foster
Midfielder
An industrious midfielder whose intelligent work when in possession makes him a potential danger man for the Soccerroos. Foster's influence over 90 minutes is great.



Vince Grella
Midfielder
Olyroo, Vince Grella best adopts the role of the midfield anchor essential in the Soccerroo squad to complement the team's numerous attack-minded players.



Josip Skoko
Midfielder
Josip Skoko is rapidly earning an impressive reputation as a creative play-maker of the highest quality. Excellent close control and well-timed forward runs.



Harry Kewell
Forward
Harry Kewell has the capability of terrorising any team in the world. United in particular, would be aware of this young Aussie's enormous talent.



Aurelio Vidmar
Forward
Aurelio Vidmar is a proven long-term performer for the Soccerroos. Although approaching veteran class, he shows no sign of slowing down.



John Aloisi
Forward
In John Aloisi, the Soccerroos have a rising star who possesses the innate ability to produce the most priceless commodity in the game - goals. Deadly in the box.



Mark Viduka
Forward
Mark Viduka is a classic example of the modern day target man. Strength, aggression, speed of mind and strong finishing. He will prove awkward for United.

23

At the time of going to press there were calls for Robbie Slater to be called into the national squad, but these are the twenty players Blanco is likely to run with.

australia

The Socceroos line up before the game against the FIFA World Stars at Stadium Australia. Back Row from Left front of them from left to right: Alex Tobin (Captain), Harry Kewell, Stan Lazaridis, Steve Corica and John



To Right: Mark Viduka, Tony Vidmar, Ned Zelic, Tony Popovic, Paul Okon and Mark Bosnich. Kneeling down in Aloisi. Expect much the same eleven to take the field against Manchester United, barring any injuries.



25

the best socceroo XI ev

No Kosmina, no Wade, no Mitchell (he was unlucky), and not even a 74 Socceroo in sight. What gives? Ralph Barba defends his selection of the best Australian team there never was.



26



Eddie Krncevic

● Eddie Krncevic was a soccer player way before his time. Krncevic's almost freakish leaping and heading ability caught the eye when he first moved to Europe to play for Croatia Zagreb in 1981. Full time professionalism helped to refine his game and by the time he moved to Belgium to play for Anderlecht in 1984 he was almost the complete player. In 1989 he won a league championship, a Belgium cup and won the award for the league's top goal scorer with 22 goals. A classy big man with awesome aerial ability.

Played: 1979-1988
Games: 21
Goals: 4



Paul Okon

● Paul Okon has been described as the most technically gifted player ever produced by this country. He was an integral part of the 1991 World Youth Cup campaign where he was universally acclaimed as one of the players of the tournament. He soon moved to Belgium team, Club Brugge and quickly earned a reputation as a sweeper with impeccable vision, possessing an innate ability to damage the opposition with well-timed rearguard runs. He now plays his trade with the Italian giants of Lazio. A great talent.

Played: 1991-
Games: 5
Goals: 0



Harry Kewell

● Although only 20 years of age, there seems little doubt that Harry Kewell will, by the end of his career, go down as an all time Australian soccer great. His brace of goals for the Soccerroos versus Iran in the 1997 World Cup qualifiers, the first silencing the 130,000 strong crowd in the throbbing caldron of the Azadi stadium in Tehran, the second igniting Aussie hopes at the MCG in the second leg, serves as ultimate proof that there is something special about Harry. Now a household name he is the player of his generation.

Played: 1996-
Games: 9
Goals: 3



Ned Zelic

● Ned Zelic produced one of the most memorable displays by an Australian player on the world stage when captaining the Olyroo team against Holland in an Olympic games qualifier. He scored both goals in a 2-2 draw, to earn Australia a place in the 1992 Olympic games in Barcelona. His easy loping style, incisive passing and outstanding leadership qualities have lead to an exciting career with a number of European sides, and were it not for injuries he would have far more trophies to his name. A naturally gifted soccer player.

Played: 1991-
Games: 34
Goals: 4



Robbie Slater

● A tenacious 'bull-dog' on the pitch, Robbie Slater earned respect and recognition on the world scene primarily due to his hard running and exciting flank play for both the Soccerroos and his overseas clubs in Belgium, France and England. In the 1993 World Cup qualifiers against Argentina, none other than the great Diego Maradona nominated Slater as Australia's best player in the two game series. He has earned the right to be labelled as one of Australia's all time greats and still has a lot to offer even now.

Played: 1988-1997
Games: 41
Goals: 1



Stan Lazaridis

● Even as a raw talent in 1993, West Ham manager, Harry Redknapp saw what an exciting career laid ahead for Stan Lazaridis. After signing with Redknapp's club a year later, for what can be now regarded as a bargain base-ment fee of \$600,000, the marauding Aussie about establishing himself as an Upton Park favourite. His skill, speed, vision and ability to run a day soon became a trademark of his play. His performances in the Soccerroos have been nothing short of spectacular. An exciting player.

Played: 1993-
Games: 27
Goals: 0



Frank Farina

● Frank Farina emerged as one of the great success stories of the Frank 'Mad Dog' Socceroo era of the 1980's. His fiercely determined approach, polished finishing and exceptional speed and mobility contributed to some of the Socceroo's greatest moments on record. Perhaps Farina's most memorable goal was the strike that clinched the 1988 Seoul Olympics 1-0 win over the then Olympic Games super power of soccer, Yugoslavia. One of the all-time greats of the green and gold.

Played: 1984-1993
Games: 31
Goals: 8



Alex Tobin

● Alex Tobin's penchant for taming the best strikers in the world clearly classifies him as one of this country's finest ever defenders. What makes his consistently faultless displays at international level all the more remarkable is that he has never played club soccer outside this country. Yet he has managed to nullify the contribution of the likes of Battistuta (Argentina), Ronaldo (Brazil) and John Pierre Papin (France), all in gilded international competition. He possesses excellent defensive positioning and leadership quality.

Played: 1988-
Games: 87
Goals: 2



Mark Viduka

● Speed, skill, strength and an uncanny eye for goal makes Australia's striking ace, Mark Viduka a stand out performer. He transferred to Croatia Zagreb from the Melbourne Knights in 1995 after winning a league championship and the Ericsson Cup. 'Player of the Year' award in successive years. In his time in Croatia, he boasted an impressive striking rate of 103 goals in 165 games. He joined Glasgow Celtic in an \$8 million deal, but may move to the English Premier League after Kenny Dalglish's arrival.

Played: 1994-
Games: 14
Goals: 2



Craig Johnston

● The fact that Craig Johnston has never pulled on a Green and Gold Socceroo shirt makes his selection as one of Australia's all time great players a contentious one. Irrespective of one's view, the indisputable fact is that Craig Johnston is the most successful Australian soccer player in history. The mighty Liverpool was impressed by his Middlesborough performances and signed him in 1980. Johnston became a regular member of an Anfield team that throughout the 80's earned the title as one of the best teams of all time.

Played: N/A
Games: 0
Goals: 0



Mark Bosnich

● Mark Bosnich is arguably the best goalkeeper in the world. He first came to prominence when playing for the marvellous Young Socceroo team that finished 4th in the World Youth cup in Portugal in 1991. His prodigious talent was recognised by English Premier League giant, Manchester United at the tender age of 16, but work permit problems forced him to return home and join Sydney United. In 1992 the big stage beckoned again with Aston Villa. Seven years on Bosnich has returned to Old Trafford a star.

Played: 1993 -
Games: 17
Goals: 1

home and away

Ralph Barba profiles the Australian players making their mark on Planet Football throughout the world.

Name: Harry Kewell
Position: Midfielder
Club: Leeds United
Premier League

In a remarkably short period of time Harry Kewell has become one of Australia's hottest sporting exports and one of world soccer's most exciting prospects.

A product of the New South Wales Institute of Sport, Kewell has not looked back since he made his debut as an 18-year-old with English Premier League team, Leeds United in 1996. In that same year, Australian coach, Eddie Thomson selected him to play his first game for the Socceroos in a friendly match against Chile.

Kewell's young age belies his ability to consistently perform at a high level on the world stage. Whether he is scoring for the Socceroos in the rarefied atmosphere of a cut-throat World Cup qualifier or tackling high class opposition, week in week out in the demanding and unforgiving environment of the English Premiership, Kewell revels in the opportunity. He is the consummate big match performer and the epitome of the modern day player. His temperament never in question, his maturity beyond his years.

As we approach the millennium, it is comforting for Australian soccer to know that Kewell will be spearheading our World Cup and Olympic games charge.





John Aloisi

Position: Striker

Club: Coventry City, English Premier
Previous clubs: Cremonese,
Portsmouth

As a 22-year-old, John Aloisi has already achieved more than most experienced international players can ever dream of. Not only has he scored on debut for each of Italian Serie A club, Cremonese and UK clubs, Portsmouth and Coventry, but he has also

forged a reputation as a striker of international repute, excelling for the Socceroos throughout Terry Venables' 1998 World Cup reign. Now looks set to build a solid career with Coventry after his cut-price move last year from struggling Portsmouth.



Tony Vidmar

Position: Defender

Club: Glasgow Rangers, Scottish
Premier League

Previous clubs: NAC Breda,
When Scottish super club, Glasgow Rangers recruited Tony Vidmar from Dutch club, NAC Breda in 1997, the majority of the Rangers faithful exclaimed "Tony Who?" Although clubs of the stature of Ajax (Holland) and Borussia Mönchengladbach (Germany) had expressed interest in him, lit-

tle was known about Walter Smith's new Aussie signing. Having 29 caps for Australia did little to convince the fans of Vidmar's worthiness to pull on the famous blue, Rangers strip. Two seasons on he is respected both on and off the field.



Vince Grella

Position: Midfield

Club: Empoli, Italian Serie A
Previous clubs: Carlton

Seven months ago, former Carlton midfielder, Vince Grella set out to pursue a soccer dream. With no guarantees and a high degree uncertainty, he joined Italian struggler, Empoli. Without warning he was thrust into the highly charged atmosphere of the Stadio Delle Alpi in Turin, home of reigning Italian Champion, Juventus within four weeks of arriving.

On debut, his first instruction was to man-mark French World Cup hero, Zinedine Zidane. An onerous task but one that put Grella in good stead for the remainder of an exciting season, resulting in a four year contract for the Socceroo.



Haydon Foxe

Position: Midfield

Club: Sanfrecce Hiroshima
Previous clubs: Ajax, Arminia
Bielefeld

Being invited to the soccer academy of Dutch club, Ajax Amsterdam would normally provide an unhindered path to the top. In the case of Olyroo star, Haydon Foxe though, any immediate hope of stardom was wrecked by a series of ankle and foot injuries.

Regular appearances for the Young Socceroos and Olyroos, though, a debut for the Socceroos against the United States in 1998 and a move to J-League club, Sanfrecce Hiroshima, has served to revitalise Foxe's career however.



Zeljko Kalac

Position: Goalkeeper

Club: Roda JC, Dutch First Division
Previous clubs: Portsmouth, Leicester
City, Wolverhampton Wanderers,
Borussia Dortmund

After years of unsuccessful European club trials and work permit problems, Zeljko Kalac, this season has finally established himself with Dutch club, Roda JC.

His current three-year, million dollar contract, helped to overcome the disappointment of previous deals with UK clubs Portsmouth, Leicester City, Wolverhampton Wanderers and German club, Borussia Dortmund, that fell through due to visa red tape and legal problems. The perfect understudy to Bosnich is improving all the time.



Josip Skoko

Position: Midfield

Club: Hajduk Split
Previous clubs: None

Since 1995 Josip Skoko has worked hard to establish himself at one of the most prestigious clubs in Croatian soccer, Hajduk Split. A creative midfielder with dazzling foot skills, Skoko has surprised many with his capacity to hold his own in elite company. His steady improvement has not been lost to European scouts, with reports that clubs from Italy and Spain are closely monitoring his progress. It was strongly rumoured last season that Italian Serie A club, Fiorentina was prepared to part with \$3 million to gain his services. He has the ability to play at the top levels.



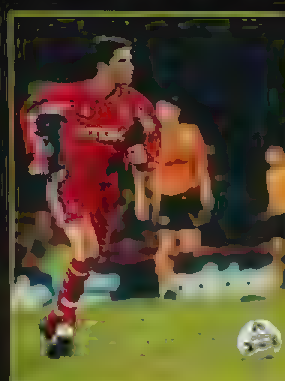
Kevin Muscat

Position: Defender

Club: Wolverhampton Wanderers,
English First Division
Previous clubs: Crystal Palace

Kevin Muscat is one of only a select number of Aussie soccer exports who have been able to walk straight from Ericsson Cup competition to full-time professionalism, with seemingly little adjustment.

In 1996 he joined Crystal Palace in English Division One and played 49 out of 51 games. That year he was also involved in a promotion play off at Wembley, earning a winner's medal on his first excursion on to the hallowed turf. He has since joined ambitious Wolverhampton Wanderers and was the 1999 Player of the Year with them.



Craig Foster

Position: Midfield

Club: Crystal Palace, English First
Division

Previous clubs: Portsmouth

Craig Foster 30, entered the ranks of professional football at a relatively late age. Excellent performances for the Socceroos throughout the 1998 World Cup Qualifying campaign made him a target for, the then Terry Venables' owned, Portsmouth Football club in the English First Division.

Foster adjusted to English football quickly and managed to maintain solid form amidst the club's precarious financial state. When Venables moved to Crystal Palace as manager, Foster followed. Despite the clubs problems he has continued to impress with his solid displays.

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keane for success

He may not always be the prettiest player on the pitch, but ask any midfielder in Britain who they most dread facing, chances are Roy Keane's name will crop up fairly often. Paul Hicks explains why.

The fuse is still short and the temper still fiery, but Roy Keane has undoubtedly grown up as a player. When he damaged his cruciate ligament in a challenge with Leeds' Alf Inge Haaland three years ago, he must have had a long time alone during rehabilitation to contemplate his future. It is a testament to Keane's mental strength that he came back better than ever into the most demanding of positions. From the holding role in Manchester United's central midfield he drives United on with his ball-winning abilities, and his late runs into the box have lead to many vital goals. Keane joined United in 1993 for \$9 million, then a record for United and any English club. It was the first of many Ferguson signings to be dubbed a waste of money what value on Keane now? Since then he has helped the club to two doubles and when Eric Cantona left the club he was the perfect person to take over as captain. Like Steve Bruce and Bryan Robson before him he is an inspirational leader and with his determined attitude will simply get better and better.



quick stats

- Position: Midfield
- Squad number: 16
- Debut: 07.08.1993
- Games: 227 (8 sub)
- Goals: 26
- Ireland games: 42
- Ireland goals: 5

Australian Girls' Choir and National Boys' Choir
performing on the Great Wall of China, Jing Sha Ling, China.

QANTAS
THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

Small wonder then that today people are singing the praises of Australia's airline, all around the world.

ON CHARTER OF THE ...



the veteran

Over 350 games for United, four league titles, two FA Cups and a European Cup medal. How, asks Rick Flay, can Ryan Giggs be only 25 still?

In 1991 a frail 16-year-old came on for Dennis Irwin at Old Trafford against Everton. It was the Manchester public's first sight of Ryan Giggs. Some eight years on he has become a fixture at the Theatre of Dreams, has captained Wales, and has scored over 70 times in 350 plus appearances. Considering many footballers - especially those with the ideal physique of Ryan's - carry on playing at the top until they are in their mid-thirties, it is conceivable that Ryan Giggs has not even reached the half-way mark of his career. And given that most soccer players peak at the age of 29, Ryan still has four years to go until he is on top of his form. Because of all this, it is not surprising that Ryan Giggs is often overlooked when it comes to the player of the year polls. The reason is perhaps, that people just expect Ryan Giggs to be a fantastic player; he's done it so often, for so long. Anyone who saw him run at Europe's strongest defence in the FA Cup semi-final against Arsenal, before rifling a shot into David Seaman's net will know that his raw talent has not been eroded by time. Surely he can't be an even better player. Can he?



quick stats

- Position: Midfield
- Squad Number: 11
- Debut: 26.02.1991
- Games: 354 (31 sub)
- Goals: 75
- Wales games: 22
- Wales goals: 5



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ferguson's babes

Who will be the Keane, Beckham or Stam of tomorrow? Gil Gillespie goes teenage talent spotting down Old Trafford way.

Wes Brown

Of all the young talent at Old Trafford, Wes Brown is the most likely to achieve superstar status by the World Cup of 2002.

For now, though, he's more than happy looking like Rio Ferdinand's baby brother, filling in at right back for England when Kevin Keegan gives him the nod. Brown is a different breed of English defender: quick, mobile and capable of bringing the ball out of defence without getting dizzy. "He can be a great player", says David Beckham of his shaven-headed teammate "it's up to him what he can do in the future".



John Curtis

After attending the FA National School of Excellence at Lilleshall with Michael Owen, John Curtis joined Manchester United in July 1995 as a trainee. A calm and assured defender, he is already established as an England Under-21 and Youth International and has also won Manchester United's Young Player of the Year award - previously won by Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes. Curtis has now played 16 games for the Manchester United first team and he is already being tipped as a future captain, not only for them but also for England. A strong and influential character.

35

Jonathon Greening

"It's great to be involved with the England side and I'm enjoying every minute of it", said the hugely enthusiastic England under-21 striker on the eve of the long trip to dark and sultry Bulgaria. His optimism is perfectly understandable. Greening is, after all, just 20 years old and on the verge of becoming a footballing superstar with the richest club in the world. The Scarborough-born youngster joined United for a sizeable £750,000 back in 1998 and made his first team debut just a few months later. Tall, strong and already powerful, Greening has been given the ball; all he has to do now is score.



the record season

Here are the details of how Manchester United completed their most successful season ever, and the players that were involved.

Manchester United 1998-1999 results and fixtures

Competition	Home	Score	Away	Date
Charity Shield	Arsenal	3-0	Man Utd	09-08-1998
English Premier	Man Utd	2-2	Leicester	15-08-1998
European Cup	Lis Lotte	0-0	Man Utd	26-08-1998
English Premier	Man Utd	2-0	Coventry	12-09-1998
English Premier	Arsenal	3-0	Man Utd	20-09-1998
European Cup	Bay Mun	2-2	Man Utd	30-09-1998
English Premier	Man Utd	5-1	Wimbledon	17-10-1998
English Premier	Derby	1-1	Man Utd	24-10-1998
English Premier	Everton	1-4	Man Utd	11-10-1998
English Premier	Man Utd	0-0	Newcastle	08-11-1998
English Premier	Man Utd	3-2	Blackburn	14-11-1998
European Cup	Barcelona	3-3	Man Utd	25-11-1998
English League Cup	Tottenham	3-1	Man Utd	02-12-1998
European Cup	Man Utd	1-1	Bay Mun	09-12-1998
English Premier	Man Utd	1-1	Chelsea	16-12-1998
English Premier	Man Utd	3-0	Nottm Frst	26-12-1998
English FA Cup	Man Utd	3-1	Widbro	03-01-1999
English Premier	Man Utd	1-1	West Ham	09-01-1999
English Premier	Leicester	2-6	Man Utd	16-01-1999
English FA Cup	Man Utd	2-1	Liverpool	24-01-1999
English Premier	Charlton	0-1	Man Utd	31-01-1999
English Premier	Nottm Frst	1-8	Man Utd	06-02-1999
English Premier	Man Utd	1-1	Arsenal	17-02-1999
English Premier	Man Utd	2-1	Sheff Wed	27-02-1999
English FA Cup	Man Utd	0-0	Chelsea	07-03-1999
English Premier	Newcastle	1-2	Man Utd	13-03-1999
English Premier	Man Utd	3-1	Everton	21-03-1999
English Premier	Wimbledon	1-1	Man Utd	28-03-1999
European Cup	Man Utd	1-1	Juventus	07-04-1999
English FA Cup	Man Utd	3-2	Arsenal	14-04-1999
English FA Cup	Arsenal	1-2	Man Utd	14-04-1999
English Premier	Man Utd	1-0	Sheff Wed	20-04-1999
European Cup	Juventus	2-3	Man Utd	21-04-1999
English Premier	Sheff Wed	1-0	Man Utd	24-04-1999
English Premier	Man Utd	2-1	Aston Villa	01-05-1999
English Premier	Middlesbro	0-1	Man Utd	09-05-1999
English Premier	Blackburn	0-0	Man Utd	12-05-1999
English Premier	Man Utd	2-1	Tottenham	16-05-1999
English FA Cup	Man Utd	1-0	Newcastle	22-05-1999
European Cup	Bay Mun	1-2	Man Utd	26-05-1999

Player appearances

Player	League	FA Cup	League Cup	Other
David Beckham	23 (1) 8	7 (0) 1	0 (1) 0	13 (0) 2
Jesper Blomqvist	20 (5) 1	3 (2) 0	0 (1) 0	6 (1) 0
Nicky Butt	22 (9) 2	5 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	5 (4) 0
Andy Cole	26 (6) 17	6 (1) 2	0 (0) 0	11 (0) 5
Jordi Cruyff	0 (5) 2	0 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	0 (4) 0
John Curtis	1 (3) 0	0 (0) 0	3 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
Ryan Gigg	20 (4) 3	5 (1) 2	1 (0) 0	10 (0) 5
Denis Irwin	26 (3) 2	6 (0) 1	0 (0) 0	13 (0) 0
Roy Keane	33 (2) 2	7 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	13 (0) 1
Philip Mulryne	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	2 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
Gary Neville	34 (0) 1	7 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	13 (0) 0
Alex Notman	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (1) 0	0 (0) 0
Paul Scholes	24 (7) 6	3 (3) 1	0 (1) 0	11 (2) 4
Ole Solskjaer	9 (10) 12	4 (4) 1	3 (0) 3	1 (6) 2
Paul Teather	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0
Ronnie Wallwork	0 (0) 0	0 (0) 0	0 (1) 0	0 (0) 0
Dwight Yorke	32 (0) 18	5 (3) 3	0 (0) 0	11 (0) 8

NB: Of the three figures for each column the first is the number of appearances, the second (in brackets) is the number of appearances made as a sub, and the third figure is the goals scored.

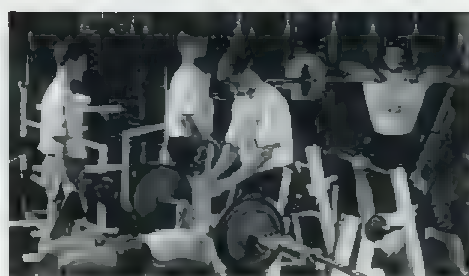
Player	Appearances	Goals	Subs	Goals	Subs	Goals	Subs	Goals	Subs
David Beckham	23	8	1	2	0	0	0	0	0
Jesper Blomqvist	20	1	5	2	0	1	0	0	0
Ole Gunnar Solskjaer	12	12	10	1	1	1	1	1	1
Paul Scholes	24	6	3	3	1	1	1	1	1
Ryan Gigg	20	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	0
Roy Keane	33	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Teddy Sheringham	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Bonny Johnson	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denis Irwin	26	2	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
Jordi Cruyff	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
John Curtis	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gary Neville	34	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Philip Mulryne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dwight Yorke	32	18	3	3	0	0	0	0	0

Dwight Yorke and Andy Cole obviously weighed in with the largest number of goals, but it is somewhat amazing that Ole Gunnar Solskjaer managed to notch almost 20 goals from the sub's bench. It is also impressive that 15 players managed to get on the scoresheet throughout the season.



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all-time records

Here are the details of Manchester United's unique achievements over the years.

Club Details

Also known as
Red Devils

Ground
Old Trafford

Year Formed
1878

The People In Charge

Chairman
Martin Edwards

Manager
Alex Ferguson

Assistant Manager
Steve McClaren

Secretary
K Merrett

Directors
J M Edelson
Sir Bobby Charlton
D A Gill
P F Kenyon
E M Watkins
R L Olive

Commercial Manager
Danny McGregor

Contact

Address
Old Trafford
Manchester

Post Code
M16 0RA

Telephone
00 11 44 161-872-1661

Records

Record attendance
70,504: vs Aston Villa 27/12/1920 Division 1
Gate receipts
576,494: vs Southampton 11/03/1996 FA Cup R6
Best league win
10 - 1: vs Wolverhampton Wanderers 15/10/1892 Division 1
Worst league loss
0 - 7: vs Blackburn Rovers 10/04/1926 Division 1
Best cup win
10 - 0: vs Anderlecht 26/09/1956 EC Cup Preliminary Round
Worst cup loss
1 - 7: vs Burnley 13/02/1901 FA Cup R1
Most capped player
Bobby Charlton: 106 England
League appearances
Bobby Charlton: 606 1956/73
League goals
Bobby Charlton: 199 1956/73
Goals in a season
Dennis Viollet: 32 1959/60 Division 1
Transfer fee received
18 million dollars: Paul Ince Inter Milan Jul 1995
Transfer fee paid
32 million dollars: Dwight Yorke Aston Villa Aug 1998

Honours

League Championship Wins: 12 (1908, 1911, 1952, 1956, 1957, 1965, 1967, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999)
FA Cup Wins: 10 (1909, 1948, 1963, 1977, 1983, 1985, 1990, 1994, 1996, 1999)
League Cup Wins: 1 (1961)
European Cup Wins: 2 (1968, 1999)
European Cup Winners Cup Wins: 1 (1970)

Although it was the '50s and '60s in which Manchester United created their legend, it was not until the '90s that they truly achieved greatness. As the table above shows they have won the league title an incredible five times in the past decade - they were also runners-up on four other occasions. Moreover, they achieved the double of League Championship and FA Cup three times. Previously it had been achieved only sporadically by some clubs over many years, Manchester United have made it almost a habit.



deadly duo

The pairing of two players each branded a waste of money by the English newspapers has produced one of the most feared strike partnerships in Europe. Jake Handerson looks at the perfect partnership of Cole and Yorke.

When he bought Dwight Yorke for over \$30 million it was proof, according to the press, that Alex Ferguson was further losing his grip on Manchester United's empire. Following the season in which Arsenal secured the double and United finished the season empty-handed, Ferguson had already 'blown' over \$25 million in pre-season on a lumbering Dutch defender, Jaap Stam. What fresh madness was this? It all smacked of desperation. Surely he didn't score enough goals? Surely he didn't have the killer instinct on which United could base their attack? And to pair him with United's other 'failure' Andy Cole would finally see United topple.

A year on and Andy Cole is back in the England team, Dwight Yorke was runner-up in The Player of the Year awards, and Manchester United have done very nicely thank you. Alex Ferguson had seen something in Aston Villa's smiling playmaker which nobody else had recognised, which made him the man to fill that pivotal rôle between midfield and attack. A position which had not been catered for properly since Eric's departure.

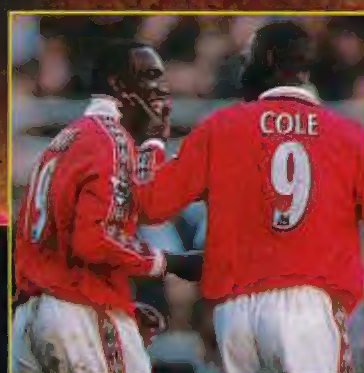
Yorke has been a revelation. The friendly Trinidad-born striker, who counts Brian Labron and Stuart Pearce as best friends, was the striker of the year. His elusive front running and finding of space is a talent few can match. He controls the ball and holds it up as well as any forward in the league. But moreover his total of 29 goals was incredible, especially as so many of them were single crucial strikes which secured victory or a much-needed point. And his understanding with Cole has made them one of the most-feared strikeforces in Europe. The goals they scored in the away leg with Barcelona in the European Cup were an indication of just how good they could become; swapping passes at will as they cut through Barcelona's rear guard.

Beware the Socceroos, they're hot.



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quick stats

Yorke

- Debut: 22.08.1998
- Games: 52 (3 sub)
- Goals: 29

Cole

- Debut: 22.01.1995
- Games: 184 (27 sub)
- Goals: 81

extra time quiz

So you think you know about about soccer? Test your knowledge of Manchester United and the Socceroos with this quick test. Answers at the bottom of the page.

PART 1

1. Who is Australia's most capped player of all time?
2. Who scored against the FIFA World Stars?
3. In which year was the Socceroos' only World Cup appearance?
4. When Australia drew 2-2 with Iran in their famous game at the MCG who scored the two Australian goals?
5. And who scored the goal when the Socceroos played away in Iran?

PART 2

1. Who did Manchester United play in their last league game of the last season?
2. Which member of the current Manchester United squad has played the most games for United?
3. And which member of the current squad has scored the most goals for them?
4. Which current player in the squad is the most capped for his country?
5. Manchester United had an epic battle with Arsenal in last year's FA Cup semi-final, but who did they beat in the quarter-final?

PART 3

1. From which club did Liverpool sign Craig Johnson?
2. John Aloisi joined Portsmouth FC from which Italian side?
3. Which current Socceroo went to the Ajax FC Football Academy?
4. Which two Socceroos play for Wolverhampton Wanderers?
5. Which English club did Ned Zelic play for?

PART 4

1. From whom did Manchester United sign Dennis Irwin?
2. Which two Manchester United defenders have won Premier League medals with another club?
3. Which three clubs has Andy Cole previously played for?
4. From which club did Manchester United sign Jesper Blomqvist?
5. Name Teddy Sheringham's three previous clubs.

PART 5



Who are the four players above?

ANSWERS

Part 1: 1. Alex Tobin 2. Zelic, Emerton 3. 1974 4. Harry Kewell 5. Harry Kewell 4. Paul Ince.
Part 2: 1. Tottenham Hotspur 2. Ronny Johnsen 3. Parma 4. Millwall, Nottingham Forest, Tottenham Berg, David May 3. Arsenal, Bristol City, Newcastle Park Rangers. **Part 3:** 1. Oldham Athletic 2. Henning Park Rangers. **Part 4:** 1. Steve Corica, Kevin Muscat 5. Queens 3. Hayden Foxe 4. Steve Corica, Kevin Muscat 5. Queens 5. Chelsea. **Part 5:** 1. Middlesbrough 2. Cremonese Hotspur 2. Dennis Irwin 3. Andy Cole 4. Henning Berg Kewell, A Vidmar 5. Harry Kewell. **Part 6:** 1. Tottenham

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OF INSTRUCTIONS.





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